Twin Track Rail System between Bangalore and Mysore

2283. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has approved the proposal of the National Institute of Advanced Studies for a high speed twin track rail system between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed project;

(c) whether any survey has been done for laying double track on the above rail line;

(d) whether Karnataka Government has agreed to share the cost of project;

(e) if so, the amount proposed to be provided by the Karnataka Government; and

(f) the amount proposed to be spent by Government during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Railways so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The following works have been sanctioned for doubling the track between Bangalore and Mysore:—

(i) Bangalore-Kengeri with electrification (12.5 Km) - anticipated cost Rs. 20.7 cr.

(ii) Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32 Km) - anticipated cost Rs. 45 cr.

Further, survey for doubling of Ramanagaram to Mysore section has recently been conducted and the report is under examination. State Government of Karnataka has offered to share 50% of the cost of doubling between Ramanagaram and Mysore. The proposal is under examination. Amount proposed to be provided by the Karnataka Government will be known once the results of the survey report are finalised and the proposal of Karnataka Government to share the cost of the work firmed up as per the agreement with the Railways.

(f) The allotment of funds during 2000-2001 for the projects already sanctioned by the Railways are as under:—

(iii) Bangalore-Kengeri (12.5 Km) - Rs. 0.1 cr.

(iv) Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32 Km) - Rs. 0.1 cr.

Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Rail Line

† 2284. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval to the scheme for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia narrow gauge rail line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Target date for completion of the Jabalpur-Gondia gauge conversion project has not yet been fixed.

Procurement of Wagons from Public Sector Wagon Builders

2285. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Industry had asked Railways to order 60 per cent of railways wagons on public wagon builders in November, 99;

(b) whether Railway Ministry has stated that these companies could not be trusted with huge order, as reported in Telegraph, dated 18th and 19th July, 2000;

(c) if so, the reason therefor;

(d) whether Industry Ministry has again asked for reservation of 60 per cent wagon orders on the PSUs for four years; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Railway Ministry on the same?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.